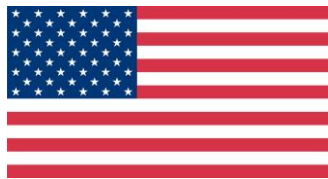


PRESS RELEASE



UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN MADRID

Statement by Ambassador Costos on His Meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs October 28, 2013

During my meeting this morning with Spanish authorities, I underscored the importance of open communication between allies and assured the Minister that we will continue our ongoing bilateral consultations on reports of information gathering by U.S. Government agencies.

The United States acknowledges that some of our closest allies have raised concerns about the recent series of unauthorized disclosures of classified information. The programs that are referred to in some of this reporting are national security programs that have played a critical role in protecting citizens of the United States. They have also played an instrumental role in our coordination with our allies and in protecting their interests as well.

President Obama has ordered an internal review to ensure that the intelligence that is collected under these programs is not just all the intelligence that the United States is able to collect, but rather intelligence that should and needs to be collected. We will continue to confer with our allies, such as Spain, through our regular diplomatic channels to address the concerns that they have raised. Ultimately, the United States needs to balance the important role that these programs play in protecting our national security and protecting the security of our allies with legitimate privacy concerns.

The U.S. and Spain have enjoyed a long friendship based on our shared values and a history of cooperating to advance mutual interests around the globe. As part of that effort, we will continue to work closely with Spain on a wide range of issues, including the collective security of our two countries and of U.S. and Spanish citizens.

October 28, 2013



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